

Ferrante, Assunta

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Communication
COUNCIL: Dec 12-18
CW Rpt. No. 29 Item 1

[Redacted]

From: Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 9:36 AM

To: [Redacted]; vaughanresidentsalliance@gmail.com

Cc: [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];
beverleyglenratepayers@gmail.com; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; cmratepayers@gmail.com;

carryingplaceratepayers@rogers.com; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; info@preservethornhillwoods.com; springfarmra@gmail.com; [Redacted];

[Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; info@villageofwoodbridge.ca; wwha@wwha.ca; Council

<Council@vaughan.ca>; Bevilacqua, Maurizio <Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca>; Ferri, Mario
<Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca>; Rosati, Gino <Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca>; Jackson, Linda <Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca>;
Iafrate, Marilyn <Marilyn.Iafrate@vaughan.ca>; Carella, Tony <Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca>; DeFrancesca, Rosanna
<Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca>; Racco, Sandra <Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca>; Shefman, Alan
<Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca>; Coles, Todd <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>

Subject: Re: Vaughan Residents Alliance and Position on Cannabis in Vaughan

December 12, 2018

To: Mayor, Regional and Local Councillors, Todd Coles

Re: Public Hearing Regarding Retail Stores For The Selling of Cannabis And The Use of Cannabis in Public Spaces

On October 17th we saw recreational cannabis being legalized in Canada and Ontario now allows online purchases, however on April 1st 2019 we will be seeing private retail stores begin to sell cannabis. Leading up to this time, the province has provided the municipalities with a one-time window to opt out of retail sales.

The Vaughan Residents Alliance (VRA) is opposed to retail / wholesale cannabis sales outlets within the City of Vaughan. While we are not opposed to what people do in the privacy of their own homes, the VRA is opposed to the use of cannabis, such as the smoking of cannabis, within City of Vaughan public spaces, especially where children play. We do not believe that taxpayers should be burdened with the added social, regulatory and by-law enforcement costs incurred by allowing retail cannabis sales outlets to operate. We feel that the 150-meter distance from the property line or from a public or private school is not adequate, the hours of the retail stores are not reflective of regular store hours, and will incur added security and staff training requirements. Also noted, is the fact that municipalities have a limited authority to pass by-laws to further restrict the locations where cannabis can be used which could be a stumbling block when trying to reign in the areas available for smoking cannabis, and cigarettes.

Overall, we agree with Mr. Lorello in terms of the decision to opt in or out of retail cannabis in Vaughan has the same effect of changing the direction, vision, perception and complexion of our city. It is a ground breaking a decision that may have undetermined effects and merits at least one evening public hearing to give residents an opportunity to speak on this critical decision. This is far too important a decision for council to make on its own.

We also agree that conducting polls and resident surveys is not enough. We must allow people to voice their views directly to council in a public forum.

There should be a public meeting and we also formally requesting that one be held to involve the broader community on this crucial decision. Council has an obligation to hear directly from its residents on critical matters such as this.

We understand that we have until January 22, 2019 to make our decision to opt in or out of retail cannabis stores. In our view, this allows for more than enough time to schedule an evening public hearing on this important issue, prior to rendering a decision.

Representing residents in Vaughan, we agree that a public hearing is necessary to engage the residents of Vaughan.

Sincerely

Vaughan Residents Alliance

Kathryn Angus, KARA

Robert A. Kenedy, MRRA

Richard Lorello, KARA

Furio Liberatore, FGTR

Laura Rinaldi, SMRA

Bob Moroz, KVG

Donna Rotondo, KARA

Robert A. Kenedy, PhD
President of the MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
McLaughlin College
York University
Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
CANADA

On Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 9:30 AM Robert Kenedy wrote:

December 5, 2018

To: Mayor, Regional and Local Councillors, Todd Coles

Re: Retail Stores For The Selling of Cannabis And The Use of Cannabis in Public Spaces

On October 17th we saw recreational cannabis being legalized in Canada and Ontario now allows online purchases, however on April 1st 2019 we will be seeing private retail stores begin to sell cannabis. Leading up to this time, the province has provided the municipalities with a one-time window to opt out of retail sales.

The Vaughan Residents Alliance (VRA) is opposed to retail / wholesale cannabis sales outlets within the City of Vaughan. While we are not opposed to what people do in the privacy of their own homes, the VRA is opposed to the use of cannabis, such as the smoking of cannabis, within City of Vaughan public spaces, especially where children play. We do not believe that taxpayers should be burdened with the added social, regulatory and by-law enforcement costs incurred by allowing retail cannabis sales outlets to operate. We feel that the 150-meter distance from the property line or from a public or private school is not adequate, the hours of the retail stores are not reflective of regular store

hours, and will incur added security and staff training requirements. Also noted, is the fact that municipalities have a limited authority to pass by-laws to further restrict the locations where cannabis can be used which could be a stumbling block when trying to reign in the areas available for smoking cannabis, and cigarettes.

It is for the reasons above, that our Alliance is opposed to allowing retail stores to sell cannabis in the City of Vaughan.

Sincerely

Vaughan Residents Alliance

Kathryn Angus, KARA

Robert A. Kenedy, MRRA

Richard Lorello, KARA

Furio Liberatore, FGTR

Laura Rinaldi, SMRA

Bob Moroz, KVG

Tony Alati, CPRA

Gary Wan, UTCA

Elvira Caria, VWRA

Mary Mauti, VRA

Donna Rotondo, KARA

Robert Aaron Kenedy, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
McLaughlin College
York University
Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
CANADA

On 2018-12-04 9:46 p.m., Robert Kenedy wrote:

Good Evening,

Apologies for the short notice, but for those interested, we are submitting the attached letter to council tomorrow morning at 9am for the Committee as a Whole meeting at 1pm.

If you want to be included as a signing organization, please let us know by 8am tomorrow.

Best,

Robert Aaron Kenedy, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
[REDACTED] McLaughlin College
York University
[REDACTED] Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
CANADA
[REDACTED]

On 2018-11-15 8:22 p.m., ROTONDO wrote:

Hello all,

It appears that municipalities have until Jan 22/19 to opt out of cannabis to be sold.

Therefore, I believe that it's vital to move on this issue quickly.

FYI,

Donna

On Nov 15, 2018, at 4:14 PM, Robert Kenedy [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear KRA members,

The Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association Board also voted not have Cannabis Outlets in our area. We also support banning smoking cannabis in public areas such as parks, sidewalks, parking lots, and other areas especially around schools and where there are children.

See today's Vaughan Citizen.

Best,

Rob

Robert Aaron Kenedy, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
[REDACTED] McLaughlin College
York University
[REDACTED] Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3
CANADA
[REDACTED]

On 2018-11-15 9:48 a.m., Kathryn Angus wrote:

Good morning All: following the meeting last night, and although discussed, I am now communicating formally the position of the KARA Board regarding Cannabis Stores – the Board voted that we did NOT want them within the parameters of our Association.

Thanks Kathryn

From: Fred Winegust [REDACTED]
Sent: November 14, 2018 11:57 PM
To: Maria Verna [REDACTED]
Cc: Beverley Glen Ratepayers <beverleyglenratepayers@gmail.com>; [REDACTED]; Mario G. Racco; David Charezenko; [REDACTED]; cmratepayers@gmail.com; CPRA <carryingplaceratepayers@rogers.com>; [REDACTED]; Furio Liberatore; [REDACTED]; Toni Lorini; [REDACTED]; Kathryn Angus; [REDACTED]; Richard Lorello; [REDACTED]; Bob Moroz; [REDACTED]; Robert Kenedy [REDACTED]; mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com; Rinaldo, Laura; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; info@preservethornhillwoods.com; SpringFarm RatePayers Assoc <springfarmra@gmail.com>; Pam Taraday (SFRA) [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Mauti, Mary [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Elvira Caria; [REDACTED]; info@villageofwoodbridge.ca; wwha@wwha.ca
Subject: Re: Vaughan Residents Alliance Meeting Minutes November 15, 2018

Hello Maria. As a follow-up to tonight's meeting

As a former candidate for Local & Regional Council I received a number of communications, specific to Retail Cannabis Shops in Vaughan

As promised here are 2 examples

The first is from OPSEU and the second was one of a series of standard form e-mails I received from City of Vaughan residents who took part in the OPSEU campaign/

As each RA was requested to take a position and communicate back to the VRA, We agreed it was important to share this information with all

Fred Winegust

Keep York Moving

----- Forwarded message -----

From: OPSEU Communications Department <opseucommunicationsdepartment@opseu.org>

Date: Thu, Oct 11, 2018, 10:30 AM

Subject: Letter from OPSEU President Warren (Smokey) Thomas regarding cannabis options

To: [REDACTED]



[Download as a PDF](#)

October 11, 2018

Dear Municipal Candidate:

I am following up on a previous letter regarding Premier Doug Ford's flawed plan to download private cannabis shops onto municipalities. It has come to my attention that some municipal councils are unaware of their options. I also want to share the results of a Nanos poll that OPSEU commissioned so you and every municipality are equipped to make the best possible decision for the people in your community.

Once you opt into the private, for-profit cannabis retail model, you effectively relinquish all further control. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario will issue licences. If council objects to an applicant, the number of cannabis shops or their location, you can try writing to the AGCO. That's it.

To add insult to injury, you will be the ones picking up the hefty tab for regulatory enforcement, whether through the police or bylaw inspectors, not to mention the costs. In other words, when the Premier sends the cannabis circus into your community, your only role will be to clean up the mess.

However, Doug Ford is giving municipalities a one-time option: Opt out by July 22, 2019, or you're in. It's like the negative-billings ploy Rogers tried years ago with nothing, and you're stuck with the bill.

That's why I urge you, when elected to municipal council, to stand up for your communities and opt out of private cannabis shops now. You can always opt out after January 22, you can never opt in. The sale and consumption of cannabis come with untold social and fiscal repercussions. There is no need to rush in your time and observe the impact on the municipalities that have opted in. Ask yourself whether this is something that will improve the quality of life for your residents.

But I suggest a third and better way: retrofitting existing LCBO outlets to dispense cannabis. Why? Because LCBO staff have a proven track record when it comes to selling responsibly. They will stock only legally sourced and tested product from approved suppliers. Your enforcement costs will be vastly diminished, and public safety and security will be better assured.

Still unconvinced? A recent Nanos poll says half of people aged 55 and up - a demographic most likely to vote - are less or somewhat less likely to vote for candidates who favour private cannabis sales. Just one in four say the opposite. One third of all voters are more or somewhat more likely to vote for candidates in favour of private cannabis. Further, Ontarians are 11 times more likely to choose LCBO over private stores to keep cannabis out of kids' hands. Visit responsibleplan.ca for more information.

I urge you to opt out of privatized cannabis now. Then tell the Premier you don't want private, for-profit outlets operating wherever the AGCO dictates. Tell the public that the responsible public option is the safest, most trusted means of selling cannabis. Tell your residents that you need and want that option for your residents.

Sincerely,



Warren (Smokey) Thomas

President, Ontario Public Service Employees Union

responsibleplan.ca>

stores
ca>

RESPONSIBLE

Dear candidate,

On behalf of Caroline Portelli, we are forwarding you information on private cannabis stores.

Dear Municipal Candidate:

The issue of cannabis sales is of great importance to our loved ones and my community are shielded, to avoid the negative impacts of private, for-profit cannabis stores.

I am very concerned that private cannabis retailers will look the other way when selling to underage youth to maximize profits. Enforcement is expensive and difficult.

Furthermore, the province has removed any control over how municipalities enforce the regulations. How will municipalities, particularly those already struggling with financial and social costs, you can help spare our people from those negative impacts?

As you know, the Ontario government has given municipalities the choice to opt out of private cannabis stores. If they do not, they will have to accept as many cannabis stores as the Alcohol and Gaming Commission chooses – with no say in the matter.

If you're elected, I urge you to opt out of private cannabis stores. Give you time to evaluate the impact on municipalities struggling with financial and social costs, you can help spare our people from those negative impacts.

I also propose a better, safer and more responsible way to sell cannabis. A Nanos poll indicates that Ontarians are 11 times more likely to buy cannabis from a responsible retailer than private retailers. That's because responsible retailers have a better record when it comes to selling alcohol responsibly.

Furthermore, Ontarians are almost four times generate more public revenue from the sale of too. I want the profits from cannabis sales to g schools and infrastructure.

That's why I ask you to do the right thing before extensively with residents and businesses. For community. Take your time to see how private that have opted in.

Furthermore, I ask that council pass a motion require bricks and mortar. A part of the existing cannabis sales. Residents will be able to sleep west of cannabis has not overrun their commu

As an elected representative, your number-one and well-being of the residents of this municipi for-profit cannabis retail model threatens the s The best way forward is clear: opt out of privat government offer the proven, trusted option –

I await your early reply.

Caroline Portelli
Vaughan, City of

info@responsib
OPSEL
100 Lesmill Rd. Toront

On Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 11:12 PM Maria Verna

wrote:

Good Evening

Thank you to all that attended this evening. Please find meeting minutes for this evenings informative and collaborative discussion. Please let me know if there is anything I missed. On page 3 of the attached is a listing of all the email addresses as discussed. I have also added the most current RPA registry from the COV dated September 2018.

Please let me know if you have any issues viewing the attached.

Have a fabulous evening, Maria

Fred Winegust
[redacted] Tangreen Circle
Thornhill, Ontario [redacted]
[redacted]

<rkenedy.vcf>